

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 12, and 13, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (currently amended) A network device managing apparatus that receives [[a]] search requests transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs [[a]] searches for network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits [[a]] device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatus, the network device managing apparatus comprising:

a first receiving unit adapted to receive, from the data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices, and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the first search request;

a first searching unit adapted to perform the first search for network devices in response to the first search request received by the first receiving unit;

a storage unit adapted to store [[the]] a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request;

a second receiving unit adapted to receive, from the data processing apparatus, a [[new]] second search request for a [[new]] second search for network devices, and the

identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the [[new]] second search request;

a second searching unit adapted to perform ~~a new~~ the second search for network devices in response to the [[new]] second search request received by the second receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain, from among device lists stored in the storage unit and using the received identification information as a key, the first device list associated with the received identification information, the obtained first device list indicating a first search result provided by the first searching unit obtained in a search performed prior to performing the new search by the searching unit;

a comparing unit adapted to compare a [[new]] second search result provided by the second searching unit with the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained by the obtaining unit;

a forming unit adapted to specify [[any]] one or more network devices found by performing the [[new]] second search by the second searching unit but not present in the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained by the obtaining unit, and to form a [[new]] second device list in which ~~such specified~~ the one or more network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the [[new]] second search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the [[new]] second device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

2. (currently amended) A network device managing apparatus that receives [[a]] searches request transmitted from [[a]] data processing apparatuses, performs [[a]] searches for

network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits [[a]] device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatus, the network device managing apparatus comprising:

a first receiving unit adapted to receive, from the data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices, and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the first search request;

a first searching unit adapted to perform the first search for network devices in response to the first search request received by the first receiving unit;

a storage unit adapted to store [[the]] a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request;

a second receiving unit adapted to receive, from the data processing apparatus, a [[new]] second search request for a [[new]] second search for network devices, and the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the [[new]] second search request;

a second searching unit adapted to perform ~~a new~~ the second search for network devices in response to the [[new]] second search request received by the second receiving unit;

an obtaining unit adapted to obtain, from among device lists stored in the storage unit and using the received identification information as a key, the first device list associated with the received identification information, the ~~obtained~~ first device list indicating a first search

result ~~provided by the first searching unit obtained in a search performed prior to performing the new search by the searching unit;~~

a comparing unit adapted to compare a ~~[[new]] second~~ search result provided by the ~~second~~ searching unit with the ~~first search result indicated by the first device list obtained by the obtaining unit;~~

a forming unit adapted to specify ~~[[any]] one or more~~ network devices found by performing the ~~[[new]] second~~ search by the ~~second~~ searching unit of which ~~[[the]] a~~ state has been changed ~~from the first search result indicated by the first device list~~, and to form a ~~[[new]] second~~ device list in which ~~such specified the one or more~~ network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the ~~[[new]] second~~ search; and

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit the ~~[[new]] second~~ device list formed by the forming unit to the data processing apparatus.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the device list formed by the forming unit indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

4. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by the forming unit includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the device list formed by the forming unit includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

6. (currently amended) A method performed by a network device managing apparatus that receives [[a]] search requests transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs [[a]] searches for network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits [[a]] device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatus, the method comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices, and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the first search request;

a first searching step of performing the first search for network devices in response to the first search request received in the first receiving step;

a storage step of storing [[the]] a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request;

a second receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a [[new]] second search request for a [[new]] second search for network devices, and the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the [[new]] second search request;

a second searching step of performing ~~a new~~ the second search for network devices in response to the ~~[[new]]~~ second search request received by the second receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage step and using the received identification information as a key, the first device list associated with the identification information received in the receiving step, the ~~obtained~~ first device list indicating a first search result obtained in ~~a search performed prior to the new search performed in the~~ first searching step;

a comparing step of comparing a ~~[[new]]~~ second search result of the second searching step with the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying ~~[[any]]~~ one or more network devices found by performing the ~~[[new]]~~ second search in the second searching step but not present in the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained in the obtaining step, and forming a ~~[[new]]~~ second device list in which ~~such specified the one or more~~ network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the ~~[[new]]~~ second search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the ~~[[new]]~~ second device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the data formed in the data forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the device list formed in the forming step includes instruction data for allowing a device icon of the data processing apparatus to be displayed in an updated state.

9. (currently amended) A method performed by a network device managing apparatus that receives [[a]] search requests transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs [[a]] searches for network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits [[a]] device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatus, the method comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices, and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the first search request;

a first searching step of performing the first search for network devices in response to the first search request received in the first receiving step;

a storage step of storing [[the]] a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information that identifies the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request;

a second receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a [[new]] second search request for a [[new]] second search for network devices, and the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the [[new]] second search request;

a second searching step of performing ~~a new~~ the second search for network devices in response to the ~~[[new]]~~ second search request received ~~[[by]]~~ in the second receiving step unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage step and using the received identification information as a key, the first device list associated with the received identification information, the ~~obtained~~ first device list indicating a first search result obtained in a ~~search performed prior to the new search~~ in the first searching step;

a comparing step of comparing a ~~[[new]]~~ second search result of the second searching step with the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying ~~[[any]]~~ one or more network devices found by performing the ~~[[new]]~~ second search in the second searching step, of which a state has been changed from the first search result indicated by the first device list, and forming a ~~[[new]]~~ second device list in which ~~such specified~~ the one or more network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the ~~[[new]]~~ second search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the ~~[[new]]~~ second device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in the forming step indicates at least one of information regarding whether printing is possible or not and an error state.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the device list formed in the forming step includes an emphasis mark to emphasize.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a network device managing apparatus that receives [[a]] search requests transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs [[a]] searches for network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits [[a]] device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatus, the program comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices, and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the first search request;

a first searching step of performing the first search for network devices in response to the first search request received in the first receiving step;

a storage step of storing [[the]] a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request;

a second receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a [[new]] second search request for a [[new]] second search for network devices, and the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the second search request;

a second searching step of performing ~~a new~~ the second search for network devices in response to the [[new]] second search request received by the second receiving unit;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage step and using the received identification information as a key, the first device list associated with the identification information received in the first receiving step, the obtained first device list indicating a first search result obtained by performing a search prior to performing the new search performed in the first searching step;

a comparing step of comparing a [[new]] second search result of the second searching step with the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying [[any]] one or more network devices found by the [[new]] second search performed in the second searching step but not present in the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained in the obtaining step, and forming a [[new]] second device list in which ~~such specified the one or more~~ network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the [[new]] second search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the [[new]] second device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing a program for controlling a network device managing apparatus that receives [[a]] search requests transmitted from a data processing apparatus, performs [[a]] searches for network devices in response to receiving the search requests, and transmits [[a]] device lists indicating the network devices found by performing the searches to the data processing apparatus, the program comprising:

a first receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a first search request for a first search for network devices, and identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the first search request;

a first searching step of performing the first search for network devices in response to the first search request received in the first receiving step;

a storage step of storing a first device list indicating the network devices found by performing the first search, the first device list being stored in association with the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus that transmitted the first search request;

a second receiving step of receiving, from the data processing apparatus, a [[new]] second search request for a [[new]] second search for network devices, and the identification information identifying the data processing apparatus transmitting the second search request;

a second searching step of performing ~~a new~~ the second search for network devices in response to the [[new]] second search request received [[by]] in the second receiving ~~step unit~~;

an obtaining step of obtaining, from among device lists stored in the storage step and using the received identification information as a key, the first device list associated with the identification information received in the receiving step, the obtained first device list indicating a first search result obtained in ~~a search performed prior to performing the new search~~ in the first searching step;

a comparing step of comparing a [[new]] second search result of the second searching step with the first search result indicated by the first device list obtained in the obtaining step;

a forming step of specifying [[any]] one or more network devices found by performing the [[new]] second search in the second searching step of which a state has been changed from the first search result indicated by the first device list, and forming a [[new]] second device list in which such-specified the one or more network devices are emphasized among network devices found by performing the [[new]] second search; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the [[new]] second device list formed in the forming step to the data processing apparatus.

14. (canceled)

15. (previously presented) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) A network device managing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the identification information is a network address of the data processing apparatus.